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OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Czeslaw WIECKOWSKI (Poland)

Addendum

C. Implementation in areas requiring urgent action

2. Sectors and issues

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraph 42 of section C.2 of the proposed outcome of the special session (A/S-19/14-E/1997/60, sect. I.B) at its ___th meeting on ___ June 1997.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendment and recommended the paragraph to the special session for adoption.

Paragraph 42 was revised to read:

"42. At the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, the international community confirmed its recognition of the problem of climate change as one of the biggest challenges facing the world in the next century. The leaders of many countries underlined the importance of this in their addresses to the Assembly, and outlined the actions they have in hand both in their own countries and internationally to respond.

The ultimate goal which all countries share is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. This requires efficient and cost-effective policies and measures that will be sufficient to result in a significant reduction in emissions. At this meeting, countries reviewed the state of the preparations for the third session of the Conference of Parties of the Framework Convention on

Climate Change in Kyoto. All are agreed that it is vital that there should be a satisfactory result.

The position of many countries for these negotiations are still evolving, and it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to seek to predetermine the results, although useful interactions on evolving positions took place.

There is already widespread but not universal agreement that it will be necessary to consider legally binding, meaningful, realistic and equitable targets for annex I countries that will result in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions within specified time-frames, such as 2005, 2010 and 2020. In addition to establishing targets, there is also widespread agreement that it will be necessary to consider ways and means for achieving them and to take into account the economic, adverse environmental and other effects of such response measures on all countries, particularly developing countries."